

By the Queene.



¶ As muche as the Queenes Maiestie is informed, that diuers of her highnesse subiectes, vnder pretense of seruice on the seas, haue some armed shippes and bessels, and some other entred into seruice as Maryners and souldiers in these troublous times of ciuile warres, some on the one side, and some on the other, do by colour of suche seruice, trouble, vexe, and spoyle, not only the subiectes of the princes her Maiesties neighbours, both of Fraunce and of the lowe countreys, but her highnesse owne subiectes also, wherby the traffique of marchandise and trade of fyshyng is at this present greatly hyndred, her Maiesties customes muche decreased, and all marchaundises greatly enhaunced in pyses, besydes the manyfolde troubles, daungers, and losses that do come to al persons who shoulde traffique by sea, and so her hyghnesse subiectes on both sydes leauyng theyz vsuall trade of fyshyng, and sea fairing in way of marchaundise, taking parties, be become as enimies, and exercise actes of hostilitie on the one syde or on the other, to al manner of persons haunting on the seas, and amongst them selues also, where contrary wyse her Maiesties wyl and pleasure is, that none of her subiectes shoulde intermeddle in any quarrels of any forraigne prince or subiect, of the one syde or of the other (and specially by sea) without her licence thereto first obtained, as hath often ben declared both by proclamation and letters: Because nowe of late, vnder pretense of those forraigne seruices, many pyracies be dayly committed and done, rea in her Maiesties owne Portes, and a great number of her hyghnesse Maryners and Fyshermen, be turned from good subiectes, to appeare rather to be Pyrates & sea roauers, to her Maiesties great greefe, & to the great daunger of this estate. Her Maiestie therfore straughtly chargeth and commaundeth that all maner of persons whosoeuer they be, that haue not licence explycally from her Maiestie, to be shewed vnder wryting, to serue any forraigne prince or other i[n] warlike maner, eyther as souldiers or Maryners, specially by sea, shal immediatly after this proclamation publyshed, and so soone as notice of the same do come to them, surceasse from suche seruice, and returne home to theyz accustomed occupation and trade of lyfe, vpon payne that whosoeuer shall not do so, shalbe taken and reputed for a rebel, and disobedient to her Maiestie. And further straughtly chargeth and commaundeth all Admirals, Viceadmirals, and all Captaynes and maisters of her hyghnesse shippes, and all other her officers whiche haue to do on the seas, & likewise al Justices of peace, al Maiors, Sheriffes, Bayliffes, Customers, Comptrolers, and Searchers, al Constables and Headboroughes, and al other her hyghnesse officers, ministers, and louing subiectes whosoeuer they be, to apprehende, take, and commyt to pryon, al suche as shal do contrary to this proclamation, and to stay all theyz shippes, tackle, victuell, and munition within the same shippes, vntil suche tyme as her Maiesties further pleasure be knownen. And because her Maiestie hath further ben enfourmed that diuers of her officers by reason of some gaine (as it is suspected) haue wynked often at these disorders, and haue ben cause why suche offenders do so encrease: her Maiestie by these presentes, geueth expresse warnyng to al her highnesse officers, that whosoeuer shalbe hereafter founde to be negligent in apprehending such malefactours, and in the execution of this proclamation, or shal wynke at theyz doynges, that vpon information, if the sayd officers shalbe founde gyldie of that negligence or corruption, they shal not only loose theyz offices, but shal incurre also her Maiesties further displeasure, and be seuerely punished, as shal apperteyne. And if the head officers of any Porte and Towne Corporate, shalbe founde herein hereafter faultie, her Maiestie shal haue cause to cease the liberties of the same Towne, for theyz disobedience so daungerous to this Realme, and to so euyl an example.

Geuen at her Maiesties Castle of Windsor, the xxvi. day of October. 1575. the xvii. yeere of her Maiesties raigne.

God save the Queene.

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Cum priuilegio Regia Maiestatis.